

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Green, Jerry

Serial No.:

Filed: Concurrently

For: **Modular Hook Assembly**

Customer Number: 03490

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 2, 2002

Information Disclosure Statement

Sir:

As suggested by 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, applicant's undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that no better prior art exists, or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

Neely, U.S. Pat. No. RE37,108E discloses symmetrical, modular blocks each having permanently fixed, equally spaced, gauging elements, where the blocks are positioned on the sides of the guide bars of a tufting machine, each guide bar having transverse channels at equally spaced intervals.



Neely, U.S. Pat. No. 5,896,821 shows a conventional tufting machine where the loopers have a take-off hand corresponding to that of the needle the looper will engage, and the take-off hands within each pair of loopers are opposed to one another.

Neely, U.S. Pat. No. 5,295,450 discloses modular blocks having a plurality of permanently fixed equally spaced gauging elements. The blocks are positioned on the sides of the guide bars of a tufting machine, each guide bar having transverse channels at equally spaced intervals.

Card, et. al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,693,191 provides a knife holder assembly having a knife bar bracket carrying a vertically adjustable knife bar slotted along its side. A tongue of an upstanding knife holder bracket is clamped in the slot and a knife holder is carried by the upstanding bracket.

Card, et. al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,691,646 discloses a cut pile tufting machine having a knife holder assembly. The knife holder including a knife bar bracket carrying a vertically adjustable knife bar slotted along its side.

Card, et. al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,669,171 discloses a group of knives for a cut pile tufting machine preassembled in a knife holder carried by a bracket, as the bracket is held in a jig. The bracket is then removed from the jig and inserted into one of a plurality of transverse parallel angling slots in a carrier member of the machine, the knives and bracket being moved in a linear path until a stop on the bracket engages the carrier

member to indicate that the knives are in proper position for cutting action with respect to this loopers.

Card, et. al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,608,934 shows a group of knives for a cut pile tufting machine are preassembled in a knife holder carried by a bracket, as the bracket is held in a jig.

Ingram, U.S. Pat. No. 4,491,078 provides gauge part mounting blocks for the hooks and knives of a tufting machine have at least a pair of reference surfaces for accurate installation in the tufting machine while providing clamping elements which allow individual gauge parts to be changed.

Lund, U.S. Pat. No. 4,170,949 the invention provides a needle bar for a tufting machine, comprising a main bar having a multiplicity of contiguous modules fitted into a longitudinal location groove in one face of the main bar, each module having a plurality of finely spaced needles held in place by locking screws.

Replaceable Components Module (RCM) system brochure circa (1985). Brochure describes relationship between knife block assembly and looper block assembly and advantages gained by replaceable components and is substantially similar to U.S. Patent No. 4,491,078 above.

Respectfully submitted,

MILLER & MARTIN

By: 

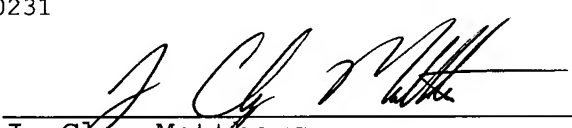
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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